

Sports & Leisure

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Mustangs shake off slow start to capture league crown



Jacqueline Lence of the Georgetown Girls Under-12 Mustangs battles for position and the ball with a Mount Hamilton opponent in Wednesday's South Region Soccer League game at Cedarvale Park. The Mustangs scored a 3-0 victory to clinch the Premier Division title, touching off a celebration after the game (below right).
 Photos by Herb Garbutt

The Georgetown Girls Under-12 Mustangs scored twice in the first half and dominated the second on their way to a 3-0 victory to clinch the South Region Soccer League Premier Division title.

The Mustangs were locked in a four-way battle for league honours heading into Wednesday's game against the Mount Hamilton Avalanche. Mount Hamilton was one of three teams that were just two points back of the Mustangs in the league standings.

But after a slow start, the Mustangs capitalized on a penalty kick and took advantage of two corner kicks to post a convincing win. The victory improved their record to 14-2-1 on the season.

"We knew we had a good chance of winning the division," said Mustang coach Tony Glen. "It's one thing to recognize that you've got a strong group of players, but to go out and live up to those expectations is a lot more difficult."

Needing a win to clinch the title, the Mustangs didn't get the start they were hoping for. Mount Hamilton controlled the first 10 minutes and narrowly missed converting a cross for the game's first goal.

Georgetown slowly took control and midway through the half, Amanda Larade was awarded a penalty kick for a hand ball call against Mount Hamilton. She drilled a kick into the right corner but the goal was called back when two Mustang players moved too early. Given a re-kick, Larade this time went to the left side, scoring just beyond the reach of the Mount Hamilton netminder.

The Mustangs would add to the lead in the final minute of the half. After a couple of attempts were blocked following a corner kick, the ball came to Jaden Todd at the top of the penalty box and she drilled it home for a 2-0 advantage.

Georgetown put the game away in the second half with a similar goal. Larade's corner kick set up one chance that was blocked but the ball went to Nicole Waters who booted a low shot out of the keeper's reach.

The lead did nothing to slow the Mustangs'

pursuit of goals. They had three good scoring chances in less than a minute. Melissa Morgan's good run up the left side set up a chance that saw Natasha Green hit the post. Green got the ball alone in front moments later but her strike just missed the top corner. Larade, Danielle Atienza and Shannon Plan also narrowly missed goals.

Hamilton's scoring chances were limited in the second half but whenever they did have an opportunity, Mustang keeper Rachelle Greenwood was there to stop them.

The league title assures the Mustangs of returning to the SRSL Elite Division next season. The Mustangs played there last year but seven ties kept them in the bottom half of the standings and when four teams were relegated, the Mustangs were dropped to the Premier Division.

This year they were determined to return. They battled for league title all season and turned in impressive tournament results, including reaching the final of both the Robbie International Soccer Tournament and the DISC March Break Tournament. However, their chances of winning the league were dealt a blow in late August when they lost 3-2 to St. Catharines, the last-place team in the division.

"I think it was a rude awakening when we lost to St. Catharines. We started the season quite strongly but in August we didn't have a lot of momentum. Then they lost that game and then they realized that unless they work and concentrate on what they're doing, any team could beat them."

They rebounded from the loss to win the OSCAR tournament in Oakville and won four straight in league play to clinch the title. The Mustangs were also edged in a shootout of the SRSL League Cup final.

Other members of the Mustangs league championship team are Daniella Campana, Maggie Darling, Jacqueline Lence, Richele Greenwood, Leslie Hale, Amanda Knoepfli, Sheena Glen, Rebecca Dickinson, coach Richard Greenwood and manager Cathy Larade.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Eagles lose final but win MVP

Barrie proved to be the only team capable of beating the Georgetown Girls Under-10 Eagles as they reached the final of a tournament in Unionville.

Barrie edged the Eagles 2-1 in the championship game but Georgetown's Jenna McKenzie

was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Vanessa McCracken led the way with a hat-trick as the Eagles opened the tournament with a 5-0 victory over Unionville. Jessica Cutting scored the other two

See EAGLES, pg. 19



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